

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Why is lead a health risk?**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and health experts agree, exposure to lead, even at low levels, can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Lead is a toxic metal that can cause immediate effects at high doses and long term effects if it builds up in the body over many years. Infants and children exposed to lead may have impaired brain development. Exposure during adulthood increases the risk of cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, heart disease, hypertension, as well as kidney and nervous system problems.

## **How does lead get into our water?**

While the water we deliver to customers is lead-free, lead can get into the water as it passes through internal plumbing or a water service line that contains lead. Some older homes may have lead pipes connecting the home to the water system. Lead in service pipes or plumbing can dissolve or break off into water and end up at the tap.

## **What about Lima's water treatment process?**

The results of samples taken at the City of Lima's sampling distribution points have been below the US EPA's action levels, indicating that our corrosion control measures are effective. While the water's chemistry, as managed by the water treatment plant, minimizes the possibility of lead dissolving in the water, there are additional steps you may need to take to reduce lead exposure in your home.

## **What is a water service line?**

A water service line is the pipe that brings water from the water main in the street to the plumbing in your property. The water service line that runs between the curb box (shut off) and your water meter belongs to you.

## **How do I know whether my home's service line contains lead?**

Lead is colorless and tasteless, so the only way to know for certain is to have your water tested by a certified laboratory or have your home inspected by a licensed plumber.

## **What are the steps for water service line replacement?**

1. Sign and submit the agreement
2. Schedule a visit for onsite service line inspection
3. Water service line replacement, if necessary
4. Flush internal plumbing, complete water test kit, and continue use of water filter for six months

## **Will this cost me anything?**

There is no cost to homeowners. The City of Lima is covering all costs using a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

